

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
SHREVEPORT DIVISION

SEAN MCKELVEY

CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-1250-P

VERSUS

JUDGE STAGG

WARDEN

MAGISTRATE JUDGE HORNSBY

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with the standing order of this Court, this matter was referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge for review, report and recommendation.

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Before the Court is a petition for writ of habeas corpus filed by pro se petitioner Sean McKelvey (“Petitioner”), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2254. This petition was received and filed in this Court on June 28, 2011. Petitioner is currently incarcerated at the East Carroll Detention Center in Lake Providence, Louisiana. He challenges his state court conviction and sentence. He names the Warden as respondent.

On June 20, 2011, Petitioner pleaded guilty to one count of failure to register as a sex offender in Louisiana’s First Judicial District Court, Parish of Caddo. He was sentenced to six years imprisonment.

In support of this petition, Petitioner alleges (1) he was not notified to the change in the sex offender registry law; (2) the arresting officer made false statements in the police report to justify his arrest; (3) his rap sheet was altered to justify his arrest; and (4) he was not allowed to confer with his attorney or speak on his own behalf during his legal proceedings.

For the reasons stated below, Petitioner's application for habeas relief should be dismissed for failure to exhaust state court remedies.

LAW AND ANALYSIS

Habeas corpus relief is available to a person who is in custody "in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254. However, the right to pursue habeas relief in federal court is not unqualified. It is well settled that a petitioner seeking federal habeas corpus relief cannot collaterally attack his state court conviction in federal court until he has exhausted all available state remedies. See Rose v. Lundy, 455 U.S. 509, 102 S.Ct. 1198 (1982); Minor v. Lucas, 697 F.2d 697 (5th Cir. 1983).

This requirement is not a jurisdictional bar but a procedural one erected in the interest of comity providing state courts first opportunity to pass upon and correct alleged constitutional violations. See Picard v. Connor, 404 U.S. 270, 275, 92 S.Ct. 509, (1971); Rose, 455 U.S. at 509, 102 S. Ct. at 1198. Moreover, in the event that the record or the habeas corpus petition, on its face, reveals that the petitioner has not complied with the exhaustion requirement, a United States district court is expressly authorized to dismiss the claim. See Resendez v. McKaskle, 722 F.2d 227, 231 (5th Cir. 1984).

Petitioner admits in his petition that he has not exhausted his available state court remedies. He did not seek direct review of his conviction and sentence and he did not file an application for post-conviction relief prior to filing this petition. (Doc. 6, pgs. 2 - 3, 6). Thus, Petitioner could not have exhausted his state court remedies prior to filing his petition in this Court.

Accordingly;

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Petitioner's application for writ of habeas corpus be **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**.

OBJECTIONS

Under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b), parties aggrieved by this recommendation have fourteen (14) days from service of this Report and Recommendation to file specific, written objections with the Clerk of Court, unless an extension of time is granted under Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(b). A party may respond to another party's objections within ten (10) days after being served with a copy thereof. Counsel are directed to furnish a courtesy copy of any objections or responses to the District Judge at the time of filing.

A party's failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation set forth above, within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy shall bar that party, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking on appeal the factual findings and legal conclusions that were accepted by the district court and not objected to by the aforementioned party. See Douglas v. U.S.A.A., 79 F.3d 1415 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc).

An appeal may not be taken to the court of appeals from a final order in a proceeding under Section 2254 unless a circuit justice, circuit judge, or district judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c); F.R.A.P. 22(b). Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Proceedings for the U.S. District Courts requires the district court to issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant. A

certificate may issue only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. Section 2253(c)(2). A party may, within **fourteen (14) days** from the date of this Report and Recommendation, file a memorandum that sets forth arguments on whether a certificate of appealability should issue.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED, in chambers, in Shreveport, Louisiana, this 16th day of December 2011.



MARK L. HORNSBY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE